

# Update on the phased return to inspection

Schools – summer 2021



# The next phase of inspections

In the next phase of our phased return to inspection, we will:

- continue to give schools the space to focus on recovery, but will balance that with providing constructive support and challenge through inspection
- focus on schools that are less than good, or have gone a long time without being inspected.

Graded inspections will take place where there are significant issues (such as safeguarding) or where a school is potentially ready to come out of a category of concern.

A full programme of routine inspections will not restart until later in 2021.



# Inspection plans: overview

Although routine graded inspections will not begin before September 2021, some graded inspections will take place across summer term.

**Monitoring inspections of 'inadequate' schools** will continue. They will now convert to a full, graded section 5 inspection if the school is showing significant improvement.

**Monitoring inspections of some schools judged 'requires improvement'** will also continue but will convert to a full graded inspection if there are serious concerns (for example, about safeguarding) or if the school shows significant improvement.

**Section 8 inspection of some 'good' schools.** As usual, they will convert if we have serious concerns.

**'No formal designation' (NFD) inspections** will continue to be carried out if we have significant concerns (for example, about safeguarding).

**Inspection on request.** Outstanding schools will be able to request a graded inspection.



## Selection of providers for inspection

- We will select schools for monitoring inspections in the normal way:
  - schools judged as requires improvement at their last two (or more) consecutive section 5 inspections
  - schools judged as inadequate, including those subject to a live directive academy order.
- We may also carry out some monitoring inspections of other schools judged as requires improvement at regional directors' discretion and based on our risk assessment.
- 'Good' schools not inspected in the last five years will be selected for a section 8 inspection.



# Inspections

will follow the section 5 and section 8 inspection handbooks (as amended).



## Quality of education

We will continue to use **transitional provisions** related to curriculum 'intent', updating the wording to add a COVID-19 context.

## Behaviour and attitudes

We will take account of the COVID-19 context in **attendance** and **extra curricular activity** in personal development.

## Leadership and management

We will make amendments to clarify that schools should have maintained an **ambitious vision** during the pandemic.

## Process of inspection

We will discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the school community in the normal notification call. We may make some changes to the process, for example, allowing some aspects of the inspection to take place remotely.



# Ensuring inspection safety

Leaders may request a deferral on the day of the notification.

The lead inspector will discuss in their initial call:

- the relevant COVID-19 restrictions
- how inspectors can work effectively within the protective measures in place
- the type of activities needed to gather evidence for the inspection
- what impact the restrictions have had on the school and its improvement work.



# After the inspection

## Draft report

Share a draft report with the school **within 18 working days** of the end of the inspection.

## Comments

Allow **five working days** for the school to comment on the draft report, process and findings.

## Publish

Publish the report **within 38 working days** of the end of the visit.

## Feedback

Ask for feedback about the process through a **post-inspection survey**.

## Quality assure

Quality assure **evidence bases and reports**.

## Retention

Retain the inspection evidence base, in line with our **retention and disposal policy**.

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